COMPUTER SCIENCE
in
ARKANSAS

VIRTUAL REALITY

There will be a TechStart Virtual Reality Equipment "re"-training opportunity in September at multiple locations across the state. This one-day training is designed to provide information to new TechStart Coordinators or as a refresher for existing coordinators. Topics will include: how to setup and use the equipment, installing and utilizing the required software, and exploring virtual reality content creation software. It is recommended that participants bring their district VR hardware (VR computer, Oculus Headset, Oculus Touches, and 360 camera) to the training.

Please register using the links provided at http://bit.ly/CSforARPD; sessions will be linked as they are scheduled.

2019 U.S. AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CYBERPATRIOT NATIONAL YOUTH CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

Sign up now! Up to ten Arkansas public school teams will be supported by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Office of Computer Science to participate in the 2019 U.S. Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

Selected teams will receive a $1,000 sponsorship to cover registration and other expenses related to participating in the pre-national rounds of the competition. Any of these selected teams advancing to the national round, will receive an additional $2,000 sponsorship to offset team expenses and to purchase hardware and/or software that will support their team.

To apply for the sponsorship, team sponsors must complete and submit the application by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 13, 2019 at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSforARCyberPatriot. Selected teams will be contacted and publicly announced by ADE by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 2019.

The team registration deadline for the CyberPatriot competition is October 2nd. Registration information can be found at: https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/competition/Competition-Overview/join-the-competition.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Virtual Reality Re-Train in September

- App In A Day Event-September 18th

- Fall High School CS and Certification Preparation Day 1-5

- AP CSP Student Day - Oct. 21st

KARMA TURNER
TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Eli McRae

Karma Turner of Lake Hamilton High School knows what it takes to be an excellent CS teacher. That's not surprising as the inaugural Arkansas CS Teacher of the year. But, she's also making sure her students know what it takes to keep information secure.

Recently, Turner brought her students to the August 2019 Central Arkansas Hackers meeting. She is teaching information security this semester, and she thought it would be a good idea to introduce herself to some professionals in the region, including many that work for some of the largest employers of software developers in Arkansas as well as state and federal government employees.

This particular hacker meetup focused on the solutions to a recent capture-the-flag (CTF) event in Ft. Smith called Shell On The Border. CTF events can be thought of as a hacking tournament where specific challenges are created for the event, and where participants must hack to complete these challenges and collect digital flags as proof.

Shell On The Border is just one of many such events that can help student skill sets to grow; one of Turner's students said how CTF events had helped her transfer these skills and knowledge to her classwork. Another student said that the event he attended "was very challenging and solving the problems was mind-racking and difficult." He continued, "solving it with my team . . . made an unforgettable experience and bonds that will last my entire coding career."

This may have been Turner's students' first hacker meetup, but it was not their first hacker event. Last October Karma brought a team to JOLT Hackathon, also a CTF event. Her team won several awards for creativity and integrity. Turner said, "They create apps & games & compete fiercely with each other and others outside our school walls. The impact on me is indescribable."

Turner said that she's been impressed by both her students achievement and excitement, and that it has had a great impact on her. "I've seen my students achieve things that excite them & make them want to know more," said Turner. "This will be our 4th year together. Building those relationships and helping each student grow in the direction that excites them is really gratifying as their teacher."

Turner is planning to bring another team to the upcoming JOLT Hackathon on October 11-13. For more information on JOLT: https://www.venturecenter.co/jolt. If you are interested in one of the monthly information security regional groups or hacker meet-ups, please see the list below or contact us.

Ft Smith, AR - fs2600 - https://fs2600.net
Rogers, AR - ArkanSec - http://arkansec.com
Little Rock, AR - Central Arkansas Hackers - https://www.meetup.com/Central-Arkansas-Hackers/

Karma Turner receiving CS teacher of the year from Secretary of Education Johnny Key and Governor Asa Hutchinson

CSTA CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

It's your chance to help shape the 2020 CSTA Annual Conference! Whether you prefer to be in front of the audience, or behind the scenes, CSTA needs your support in making this conference our best ever.

- **Apply to present**: Visit CSTA's website to learn how you can submit a three-hour workshop, one-hour session, 20-minute mini-session, or a one-hour "Birds of a Feather" discussion. Applications close on Sept. 29.

- **Become a reviewer**: CSTA invites you to consider reviewing submissions for CSTA 2020! If you've attended or presented at a prior CSTA conference, have a connection to K–12 computer science and are available between Oct. 5 and Oct. 28, consider volunteering your time.

DO YOU TEACH MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS?

Every year, middle school and high school students from each congressional district compete in a mobile app challenge in hopes of being recognized as the top team. Each winning team receives an opportunity to demonstrate their app in the spring at the U.S. Capitol for the House of Code event. The winning team will see their app displayed at the U.S. Capitol Building for one year!

Last year there were 1715 apps submitted nationwide, and 152 of those came from Arkansas alone! Would you like to see what it's all about and get some help preparing students to compete? Dawson Educational Cooperative is hosting a student event called App in a Day to help students build an app. There is a live feed you can watch regardless of where in Arkansas you are! This years event takes place on September 18, 2019. If anyone is interested in getting your students involved in the 2019 Congressional App Challenge or would like more information on the App in a Day event, contact Tammy Glass at tammy.glass@dawsonesc.com or use the registration form at http://bit.ly/2019AppInADay.

CRASH COURSE

During Computer Science Education Week in December 2018, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) announced the statewide launch of CrashCourse, a video education tool that highlights the signs and symptoms of concussions, as well as the long-term effects. The goal is to educate students, primarily student athletes, of the effects, so they'll better identify the symptoms and quickly receive proper medical care. On August 28, 2019, at Bryant High School, the ADE Division of Secondary Education (DESE) Office of Computer Science, with its state and industry partners, announced the launch of the new virtual reality (VR) component.

Because of a partnership announced in 2017 between the Arkansas Computer Science Initiative and Facebook/TechStart, most Arkansas high schools received free Oculus Rift virtual reality systems that can be used to experience the CrashCourse VR program. For more information on the donated systems, please refer to Commissioner's Memo COM-18-020 at http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=3366.

STUDENT PLACEMENT SURVEY

Virtual Arkansas helped in the development of a student placement survey based on the Arkansas Computer Science Standards. The survey is designed to assist guidance counselors and students in determining which computer science course would be most beneficial for the student. Students receive a completion certificate that reveals the level of course from which they would most likely benefit. This certificate can be printed or captured and sent to counselors as they schedule students for next year's classes. Local schools may use this in addition to a variety of information to help make placement determination. The navigation and design of the course was a student-focused approach in the hopes that it would provide a service for both students and schools.

The URL for the survey is http://www.virtualarkansas.org/cs-survey.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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